

# WINTER WEATHER DRIVING

**SAFETY  
FIRST**



Winter driving can be extremely hazardous at times due to poor road conditions or reduced visibilities from heavy or blowing snow. During these times, travel is difficult if not dangerous and often is not recommended. However, many people still venture outdoors not knowing what they will encounter. This is why being properly prepared is a must as it may save your life and those traveling with you.

Many winter deaths can be attributed to people becoming stranded and venturing away from their vehicle. The longer people are out in the elements, the more likely they will become disoriented and die due to exposure. To avoid this one should stay inside their vehicle and wait for help. Display a signal, such as tying a bright cloth to your antenna to alert someone that you are in trouble and also to aid rescuers. Occasionally run your engine to provide heat, but be sure to open a window slightly to allow proper ventilation inside the vehicle. Be sure to clear the exhaust pipe of snow to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

## ***Things to remember when traveling this winter season:***

- \* *Listen to the forecast before departing and postpone travel if inclement weather is occurring or expected.*
- \* *Avoid traveling alone. Inform others of your timetable and primary and alternate routes.*
- \* *Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.*
- \* *Adjust your speed to the conditions and increase following distances. Bridges and overpasses can be more slippery than other parts of the road.*
- \* *Carry a winter survival kit in your vehicle at all times!*

## **WINTER SURVIVAL KIT**

The following items should be included in your winter weather survival kit:

- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ A can of sand or kitty litter.
- ✓ Tire chains.
- ✓ Flashlight with extra batteries.
- ✓ Candles and matches.
- ✓ An empty coffee can to be used to burn the candles for heat and to melt snow for water.
- ✓ Caps, mittens, and boots for everyone.
- ✓ Sleeping bag or blanket for everyone.
- ✓ Non-perishable food, such as granola bars or dried fruit.
- ✓ Booster cables.
- ✓ Battery-operated radio with extra batteries.
- ✓ First aid kit.
- ✓ Cell phone with fully charged batteries.

## **ROAD CONDITION PHONE NUMBERS**

IOWA.....(515) 288-1047  
MINNESOTA.....(800) 542-0220  
MISSOURI.....(800) 222-6400  
NEBRASKA.....(402) 471-4533  
NORTH DAKOTA.....(701) 328-7623  
SOUTH DAKOTA.....(605) 367-5707  
WISCONSIN.....(414) 785-7140  
WYOMING.....(307) 237-8411

